



**SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**

March 4, 2020 Meeting Notes  
 Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Co-Chair: Dirk Wassink*  
*Co-Chair: Nico Onoda-McGuire*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Emily Newcomer	Y	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Alan Garvey		Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Adam Maurer		Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division Director
Rachtha Dahn		Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Strategic Advisor - Solid Waste Liaison
Alessandra Pistoia	Via Phone	Socorro Medina	Solid Waste Lead Planner
Dirk Wassink	Y		
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Y	<b>Guests</b>	
Kelsie Blanthorn	Y	Johnathan Swift	Guest
		Heather	Guest

**1. Regular Business**

- SWAC Co-Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name, where they live and their favorite spring flower.
- Katie Lynd indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.
- Meeting notes from February were reviewed and approved.

**2. Strategic Business Plan Update**

Johnathan Swift, representative of SPU’s Corporate Policy group, gave a presentation that provided an overview of the Strategic Business Plan (SBP).

- **A SWAC member** asked if there are funds from other divisions within SPU that can be used to expand Solid Waste services?
- **An SPU member** shared that different organizations have different financial policies. Enterprise funds are required. For example, money collected for Solid Waste must be spent on Solid Waste services.
- **A SWAC member** asked how likely is it that the proposed SBP will be approved?
- **An SPU member** shared that we are not anticipating any substantive changes around Solid Waste. The final plan is expected to be adopted in November of this year.
- **A SWAC member** asked how can Waste Prevention become a more significant part of the budget?

- **An SPU member** responded that there is a list of steps that need to be taken. For starters, it would need to be listed in the Comp Plan. Then, it would need to be approved by council. SPU is currently in the process of looking at how to make a paradigm shift

### 3. 2020 Solid Waste Comp Plan Update

OOO Solid Waste Lead Planner, Socorro Medina, gave an overview of the Solid Waste Comp Plan.

- **A SWAC member** asked if the change in demographics in the city can affect the city's recycling rate?
- **An SPU staff member** shared that yes, the number of increasing multi-family units, people moving to the city from a place where recycling is not common, and several other factors can contribute to the recycling rate.
- **A SWAC member** said it may be also due to people giving up on recycling due to confusion on what can be recycled and what cannot be.
- **A SWAC member** shared that it would be great to highlight that the cell phone and iPad have replaced the newspaper, therefore leading to less recycling.
- **A SWAC member** shared that it might be better to make a concise statement in the slide regarding public perception.
- SWAC members will be involved in incorporating public comments. Target date is to go to council in June.
- **A SWAC member** asked if there is an effort to change what the recycling rate goal is?
- **An SPU member** shared that we would prefer to delay the goal. For example, 60% by the year 2028.
- **A SWAC member** shared that it might be beneficial to get media attention around the goal change to get more people thinking about waste.
- **A SWAC member** shared that it would help to have recommended metrics that are also connected to Greenhouse Impact. In addition, a target that shows we are increasing our goals and increasing our impact.
- **A SWAC member** would like to see "simple numbers" to show how factors have changed regarding recycling.
- **An SPU member** shared that the SWAC has given some great suggestions and they will try to incorporate those comments into the presentation.

**BREAK 6:45-6:50**

### 4. Solid Waste LOB Updates

- SPU's Strategic Business Plan Development
  - 2020-2022 Budget development is rolled up into this
  - Report is due to Council by June 30, 2020
  - Customer Review Panel advises on the development.
  - SWLOB provides input to development of the final document

- Covid-19/Coronavirus Response
  - COOPS being developed.
  - All-hands-on-deck response.
  - Following Federal and State directives.
- Recycling Rate Report
  - Letters sent out to all recyclers.
  - Process underway to gather data and run the numbers to
  - Customer Review Panel advises on the development.
  - SWLOB provides input to development of the final document

## 5. Legislative Updates

Sego provided status updates of the bills that SWAC members were following.

1. Bag ban (SB 5323)–. Intense current effort. Still alive. Moved out of House Finance Committee today.
2. Foam ban (SB 6213)– DEAD.
3. Recycled Content (HB 2722)- eligible for floor vote in Senate. On floor calendar.
4. Solar (HB 2645) – eligible for floor vote in Senate
5. Compost Procurement (HB 2713) eligible for floor vote in Senate. On floor calendar.
6. Washington Soil Health Initiative (6306) - eligible for floor vote in House
7. Industrial Waste Coordination (SB 6430) – eligible for floor vote in House
8. Wipes labeling (HB 2565) - eligible for floor vote in Senate. On floor calendar.

## 6. Conference/Event Updates

- **A SWAC member** went to Green Business Conference in Arizona this year which focused on business solutions. Covered many different topics including circular economy, and making significant progress in addressing climate change in which people and communities of all different backgrounds are involved and engaged
- **A SWAC member** attended the Circular Cities Event which provided knowledge around what circularity really means here in Seattle and in cities around the world. The event focused on exploring and mapping businesses and activities that support the circular economy, right here in Seattle.

**Adjourned 7:30 p.m.**